

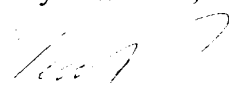
REMARKS

In response to the Requirement for Restriction mailed July 15, 2003 in the filing of the above-identified application, the applicant responds by electing Group I. The applicant however respectfully traverses this requirement for restriction.

The Examiner has composed a requirement for restriction which is unnecessarily complex and inappropriate. This patent application discloses a series of modifications to a single enzyme intended to increase the thermal stability of that enzyme. The search of the subject matter of any of the claims this application will inevitably involve a search for all modified forms of this enzyme and their thermal stability. As such, there is no separate search required for any of the inventions described in this patent application. Although the Patent Office makes a distinction between the polypeptide and the polynucleotide in terms of their patentability of the inventions, other than that there are no differences in the claims subject matter here which would any way make the searches materially different. Accordingly, it is believed that this requirement for restriction is unnecessarily prolix and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Nevertheless, in order to make the patent application easier to examine, the applicant has amended the claims above so as to withdraw some of the subject matter previously covered by these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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